

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/EGY: G.N. ANDERSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

UNCLAS STATE 179603

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 10672 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN JIDDA
KUWAIT TEL AVIV TRIPOLI BAGHDAD SEPT. 10:

QUOTE

UNCLAS BEIRUT 10672

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR JO SY EG XF

SUBJ: SA'IQA LEADER COMMENTS ON JORDAN'S RETURN TO THE FOLD

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

1. IN LIGHT SEPT 10 CAIRO SUMMIT, FOLLOWING STATEMENTS
RE RUMORED SYRIAN-JORDANIAN-EGYPTIAN RAPPROCHEMENT
SA'IQA LEADER ZOHAYR MUHSEN CARRIED IN SEPT 8 PRO-
FEDAYEEN AL MUHARRIR AND SEPT 10 INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR
MAY BE OF INTEREST.

2. MUHSEN TOLD MUHARRIR THAT GEOGRAPHY DICTATES
IMPORTANCE OF JORDAN'S COOPERATION SHOULD FIGHTING
RESUME ALONG SUEZ CANAL OR GOLAN HEIGHTS. SAID
ACHIEVEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND "COMPLETE AGREEMENT"
BETWEEN JORDAN, SYRIA AND EGYPT WOULD ENABLE GOJ
PLAY VITAL ROLE, WHEREAS PRESENT OSTRACISM OF JORDAN
CREATES POTENTIAL FOR "MISCHIEF" AND IS "OF GREAT AID
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TO ENEMY". MUHSEN OBSERVED JORDANIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS

HAD LATELY BECOME "UNSTABLE", ESPECIALLY AFTER RECENT US VETO AT UN, FORCING KING HUSSEIN TO "CORRECT HIS RELATIONS" WITH DAMASCUS AND CAIRO, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED IT WOULD BE "DIFFICULT TO GUARANTEE CONTINUED JORDANIAN COOPERATION IN LONG RUN ": HE CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT IN SARG'S VIEW PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES DEMAND THAT PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO REVIEWING EASTERN ARAB COMMAND.

3. IN AN NAHAR INTERVIEW, MUHSEN SAID SYRIAN MINDEF TLASS' RECENT VISIT TO AMMAN TO ELICIT HUSSEIN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD RAPPROCHEMENT HAD MET WITH JORDANIAN EQUIVOCATION AND PROMISES THAT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS WOULD BE ANSWERED AT CAIRO SUMMIT. TAKING ISSUE WITH RECENT STATEMENTS BY PLO/FATAH LEADERS ON SUBJECT OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH JORDAN, MUHSEN SOME EO AT BITTER FEDAYEEN MEMORIES OF SEPT 1970 EVENTS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED OBSTRUCT REESTABLISHMENT OF EASTERN FRONT AND POSSIBILITY THAT FEDAYEEN MIGHT SOMEHOW "RETURN TO THAT FRONT". IN TERMS BORDERING ON FEDAYEEN HERESY, HE OBSERVED "IF WE OBTAIN SOME RIGHTS LOST IN THE SEPTEMBER BATTLES, THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO GIVE OIL AND OTHER RIGHTS". MUHSEN ALSO INDICATED DISAGREEMENT WITH FATAH/PLO POLICY OF TOTAL OPPOSITION TO PROPOSALS FOR CREATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE.

4. DETAILS FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM. BUFFUM

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